NEVADA *WEB Z*

in the news

Immunization Registry Regulations Adopted

REGULATIONS (Nevada Administrative Code 439) intended to implement the immunization information system (WebIZ) were adopted by the State Board of Health on June 20, 2008. These regulations were prescribed in a law (Nevada Revised Statutes 439.265) passed during the 2007 legislative session that served as the enabling legislation for WebIZ. For providers, one of the most important parts of the legislation and the regulations is the establishment of *July 1, 2009 as the date that all providers who administer vaccinations in Nevada to children under 18 must report the data to the immunization registry.* This data may be entered electronically directly into WebIZ or manually through the use of a written form. It is believed, however, that providers will find it much more cost effective and efficient to use the registry to comply with this requirement.

In addition to mandatory reporting as of July 1, 2009, all providers must give both children and adults a form that explains the purpose of the registry and allows them to opt-out of inclusion in the registry (if a child) or opt-in to the registry (if an adult). Having a different process for exclusion from the registry (children) or inclusion into the registry (adults) may be confusing and difficult for providers so the Health Division is currently investigating the possibility of additional legislation that would utilize opt-outs for both children and adults. In addition to the required disclosures, the regulations also prescribe who may access the registry and how the information in the registry will be kept confidential.

Mandatory reporting requirements in other states are one of the reasons often cited for improvement in a state's immunization rates. It is hoped that with the addition of mandatory reporting, Nevada will soon see an upward trend in its immunization coverage rates. If you would like more information on the statute, regulations or WebIZ please contact Tami Chartraw at 775.684.4032 or at tchartraw@health.nv.gov.

Introducing WebIZ Staff

FEATURED here are the three members of the WebIZ team. From left to right in the picture are Amanda Harris, Tanya Vega, and Tami Chartraw. Amanda Harris has been working for the State Health Division for the past 10 years and joined the Immunization Program in 2006. Amanda is the WebIZ Helpdesk Coordinator and is responsible for providing day-to-day technical support for users, establishing new accounts, and conducting trainings. Tanya Vega joined the team this year as the WebIZ Data Analyst and has a master's degree in biochemistry. Tanya provides data quality assurance for the registry data and performs data analysis and reports. Tami Chartraw, Registry Manager, started working in the State Immunization Program in 2006 and is responsible for managing the registry. She has nine years experience in health information systems, health care law, and health policy and has a master's degree in public administration, specializing in health administration and policy.

Our First Issue!

This issue marks the FIRST of our quarterly newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide updates on any changes in policies or procedures at the state level, highlight community WebIZ users, introduce valuable WebIZ lessons, and ultimately create a forum for registry issues. The subject matter for these newsletters is targeted towards those who participate and support the registry including, medical office personnel, physicians, schools, immunization coalitions, hospitals, health care plans, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If you have any suggestions, please contact the WebIZ helpdesk at 775.684.5954 or email at izit@health.nv.gov.

WEBIZ COMMUNITY

Provider Spotlight
Orvis Nursing Clinic, Reno

The Orvis Nursing Clinic has been using WebIZ, the statewide immunization registry, since its inception in 2003. Doreen Begley, who has been the clinic's administrator for the past five years, has 38 years experience as a registered nurse (RN) and also has a master's degree in health administration. In addition, Begley has 30 years of emergency department experience. The Orvis Nursing Clinic (ONC) is part of the University of Reno, Orvis School of Nursing, and is a nurse practitioner run clinic that provides low cost, quality health care to vulnerable populations in a dignified and healing environment. ONC administers vaccines to about 250-300 patients in a month.

Administrator Doreen Begley, RN, MS (left)
Carole Shochat, LPN (right)

Administrator Begley took some time to meet with the WebIZ staff to discuss her clinic's experience using the registry. When asked what the clinic operations were like prior to using WebIZ, she describes it as being a very paperwork laden process that was labor intensive and identified that often duplicate vaccinations had been given to patients, due to multiple and/or confusing immunization records. When they transitioned to using WebIZ, they received instrumental training and guidance from Jeanette O'Brien with the Washoe County Health District (WCHD). The staff realized that by using WebIZ the immunization process became easier and they do not want to function again without it. WebIZ has created a smooth and professional office process and practice with a clear and concise printed record that is easy to read, Begley stated.

> "I would definitely recommend it because it has improved our efficiency and allowed us to access records and better manage our vaccine inventory. I can't imagine going back to the old system."

ONC provides consent forms to their patients, which explain the existence of the registry and how their records will be entered and maintained within the registry. Administrator Begley has said that parents have had no objections to the registry and are very thankful it exists, especially if their previous records are lost, and then recovered from WebIZ, resulting in discovering that their child is actually up to date. With this current trend at the clinic, Administrator Begley believes now that the new regulations have been passed there should not be any change in how their clinic operates. For more information about regulations, please read about them on page one of the newsletter. When asked if she would recommend the registry to non-users, Administrator Begley said, "I would definitely recommend it because it has improved our efficiency and allowed us to access records and better manage our vaccine inventory. I can't imagine going back to the old system."

WEBIZ LESSONS

DEMOGRAPHIC DEFAULTS

It is very important to have the patients' demographics screen in WebIZ filled in with the city, county, and state. This can easily be done by clicking on the "Set Defaults" button on the upper right corner of the screen. This will fill in the default information that is associated with your clinic. To find out if your clinic has established defaults, call or email the WebIZ Helpdesk.

Dear WebIZ,

Question: *I tried to login, but I received a message saying "Invalid username and/or password." What happened?*

Answer: If you receive this message, it is due to one of the following:

-The username was typed incorrectly
-The password was typed incorrectly
-You have not logged in for an extended period of time (example: school nurses out for the summer will need to have their account reset upon the new school year)

Question: *What can I do to reset my password?*

To reset your password, simply call the WebIZ Helpdesk at 775.684.5954. Your user account will be reset and you will be asked to login while on the phone. It only takes a couple of minutes to be back up and running!

(You may also email the Helpdesk at izit@health.nv.gov and will receive a call within one (1) business day.)

Question: *I created a patient record and cannot find it- why?*

Answer: Occasionally, a patient accidentally gets deleted by another user. Once a patient is deleted, only Nevada WebIZ staff can view the record. If you cannot find a record you *know* is in there, this is most likely the cause. If this happens, call the Helpdesk.

WebIZ Lesson "Searching Smart"

Tips on finding patients and avoiding duplication

Whenever possible, use the patient's date of birth as part of the search criteria

When searching with only a name, data must be entered in *at least* two (2) fields

Last name and date of birth – *a good way to search!*

Enter only *partial* first names to account for nicknames and previous misspellings (entering "An" as a first name will return "Ann", "Anne", "Angela", etc.)

Enter only *partial* last names to account for different spellings (entering "Anders" will return "Ander*son*" and "Ander*sen*")

Entering a date of birth and *only* the first letters of both first and last name has helped some users find and identify duplicate records!*

*Duplicate records can be combined together by the Nevada WebIZ HelpDesk- report any found duplicates to izit@health.nv.gov.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you'd like to sign up to use WebIZ contact the helpdesk at 775.684.5954.

POLICY & FORMS

Click above to see the policy and forms associated with using WebIZ

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TRAINING

This summer we are developing the fall training schedule. We offer 2 1/2 hour classes for introductory and advanced users. Introductory course-topics include searching patients, creating patients, recording vaccinations, and reports. Advanced course- topics include managing vaccine inventory, reconciling your inventory, recall/reminder reports, and removing unresponsive patients.

We also want to provide videoconferencing options. Please let us know if you have facilities in your area.

Check out this flier to see the trainings scheduled to date. There will be more scheduled in the future.

WebIZ Fun Facts

Number of providers including clinics using WebIZ
514
Number of children under 18 years of age in WebIZ
607,250

Trivia Question: *Which hospital was the first to initiate the Cocooning Project?*

-Answer in next newsletter